

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a titanium metal implant for use in a surgical procedure, so as to form a surface layer that is integral with the metal substrate and which incorporates a biocidal material, by anodising the implant to form a surface layer and then performing ion exchange so as to incorporate ions of a biocidal metal into the surface layer, characterised in that the method comprises anodising the implant at a voltage above 50 V for a period of at least 30 minutes, so as to generate the surface layer, wherein the current density ~~is sufficiently low~~, the electrolyte concentration ~~sufficiently high~~, and the duration of anodising and the magnitude of the anodising voltage are such that the anodising generates a dense hard surface layer and also shallow pits in the surface layer which are filled with a somewhat softer and more porous material.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biocidal metal is silver.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the anodising step uses an electrolyte comprising phosphoric acid.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the phosphoric acid is of concentration between 5% and 20% by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein the electrolyte comprises chloride ions at

a concentration no more than 500 ppm.